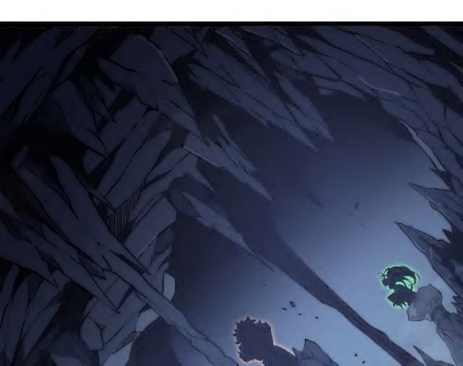
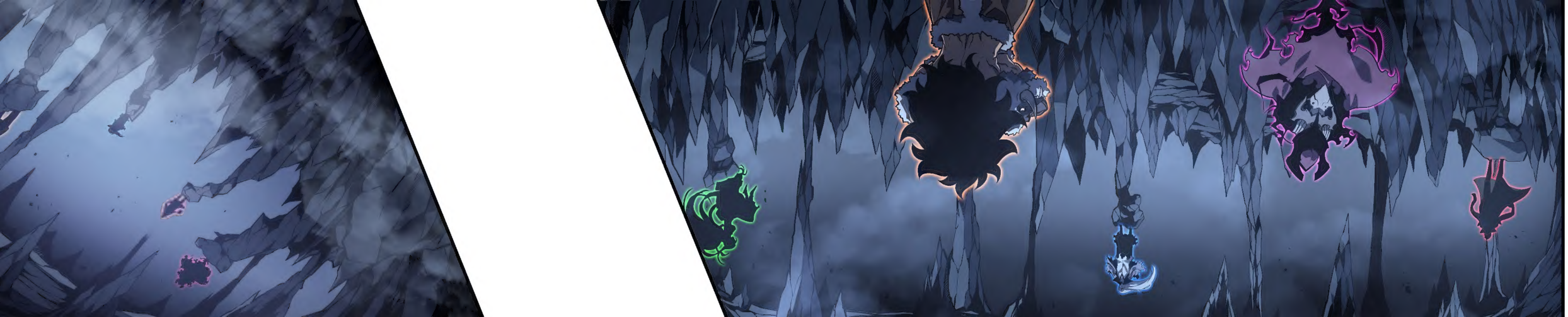
Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

152





THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS IS CURRENTLY ON EARTH.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WASN'T A VESSEL THAT COULD CONTAIN HIS POWERS.
ISN'T THAT WHY THE DRAGON KING COULDN'T REMAIN ON EARTH?

I CLEARLY SAW HIM WITH MY OWN TWO EYES.
HE'S MUCH MORE OF A THREAT THAN THE FRAGMENTS OF BRILLIANT LIGHT.
I WILL GET RID OF HIM.
WILL YOU HELP ME?

CHOOSING TO FIGHT AGAINST HIM IS CHOOSING DEATH.
OUT OF THE NINE MONARCHS WHO REIGN OVER CHAOS, HE'S ONE OF THE STRONGEST.
WHY DON'T YOU WAIT FOR THE MONARCH OF DESTRUCTION, THE DRAGON KING, TO RETURN INSTEAD?
WE MAY BE ON THE RUN RIGHT NOW, BUT WE'RE STILL MONARCHS.
CLENCH
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU EXPECT US TO RELY SOLELY ON THE DRAGON KING?

NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO GET RID OF THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS, WHEN HE'S STILL IN HIS HUMAN FORM.
FIGHT WITH ME.
I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND SEND HIM BACK TO NOTHINGNESS.

COUNT ME OUT OF THIS ONE.
I DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE THE MONARCH OF WHITE FLAMES.

...COWARDS.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONARCH OF WHITE FLAMES AFTER HE LOST.

I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT BY THE SHADOW MONARCH'S AUTHORITY AND FALL INTO "ETERNAL SLUMBER."
I DON'T THINK HE CAN SUBJECT OUR ASTRAL BODIES TO HIS AUTHORITY, THOUGH.
IT SEEMS THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS AND THE ARCHITECT HAVE JOINED FORCES, SO...
...HE CAN CREATE REPLICAS OF US.
ZZZT
I'D RATHER NOT BECOME ONE OF HIS PAWNS.

SHWP

FSHHH

IS THERE PROOF HE'S STILL A HUMAN?

HE HAD APPLIED POISON ON HIS DAGGER. THAT'S NOT SOMETHING ASHBORN, THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS, WOULD DO.

POISON...?

YOU'RE RIGHT. IF THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS WERE CONTROLLING THE HUMAN'S BODY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE RESORTED TO SUCH A PETTY TRICK.

DO I HAVE YOUR SUPPORT THEN?

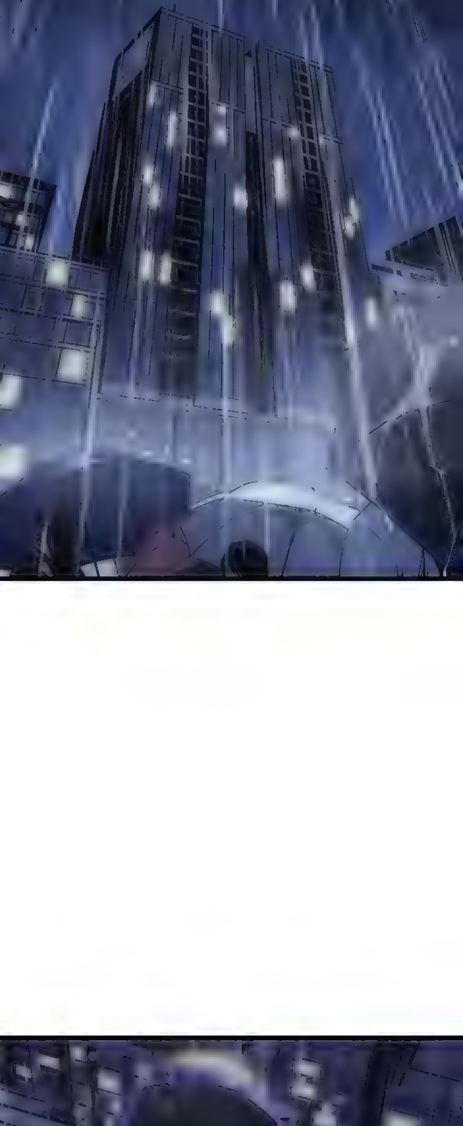
I WILL HELP YOU.
LET'S KILL THE SHADOW MONARCH.

"THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHO WILL PROTECT YOUR LIFE IF ANOTHER S-RANK GATE WERE TO SPAWN."

"YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BUY BACK YOUR LIFE EVEN IF YOU PAID HUNDREDS... NO, THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE THAN WHAT YOU PAID FOR YOUR HOUSE."

BACK WHEN SUNG JINWOO WAS BATTLING THE ANTS ON JEJU ISLAND,
CHAIRMAN GO GUNHEE, WHO WAS WATCHING THE BROADCAST WITH ME, SAID...
...HE COULD DIE IN PEACE, NOW THAT HIS LIFELONG WISH HAD BEEN FULFILLED.

BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE'D PASS AWAY SO SOON...



DRIP
DRIP

I CAN'T DETECT HIS MANA.
AS I SUSPECTED, THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
STATUS
NAME: SUNG JINWOO Lv.133
JOB: THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS
TITLE: DEMON HUNTER (+2 MORE)
HP : 78,230
MP : 136,160
FATIGUE: 3
STRENGTH: 308
HEALTH: 307
AGILITY: 316
INTELLIGENCE: 321
SENSE: 298
AP : 0

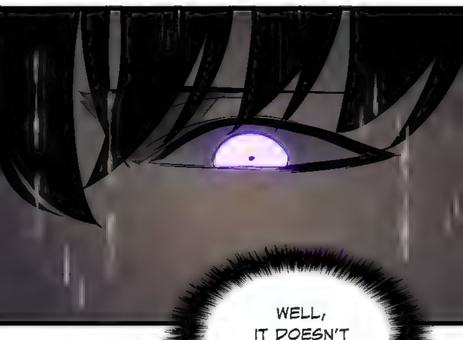
HE DIDN'T HAVE A SHADOW.

"ASTRAL BODIES"... THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD.

THE KING OF GIANTS TOLD ME MONARCHS AND RULERS CAN'T BECOME SHADOW SOLDIERS BECAUSE THEY ARE MADE OF ASTRAL BODIES.

...THAT ARE DESTROYED UPON DEATH, SO THEY CANNOT BE TURNED INTO SHADOWS.

IF THAT IS ALSO WHY MONARCHS DO NOT HAVE SHADOWS, THEN I'VE JUST LOST ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO TRACK HIM DOWN.



WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

AS LONG AS I'M A HUNTER,

I WON'T LET MY PREY GET AWAY.

IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK SINCE THE CHAIRMAN'S PASSING.
IT'S TIME WE DECIDED ON HIS SUCCESSOR.

THE FACT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KOREAN HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION WAS AN S-RANK HUNTER HELD GREAT MEANING.
BUT NOW THAT WE'VE LOST SUCH A MONUMENTAL FIGURE, WHO WILL BE ABLE TO OVERSEE THE FIVE MAJOR GUILDS?

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE RECRUIT AN S-RANK TO THE ASSOCIATION?
HIGH-RANKING HUNTERS MAY BE INFLUENTIAL, BUT WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS OF BRINGING IN OUTSIDERS.

THEN WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE WE DO...?
AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, THE DIRECTORS AND I HAVE DECIDED TO RECOMMEND...

...MR. WOO JINCHUL AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

WHAT? WHY ME...?
AS THE LATE CHAIRMAN'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, YOU HAVE LEARNED THE PRACTICAL SKILLS NEEDED FOR THE JOB...

...AND YOU ALSO HAVE THE LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO RALLY THE HUNTERS.

THERE'S NO REQUIREMENT STATING THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAS TO BE AN S-RANK.

WE NEED SOMEONE WHO HAS INFLUENCE OVER THE HUNTERS AND IS FEARED BY THE HUNTERS.

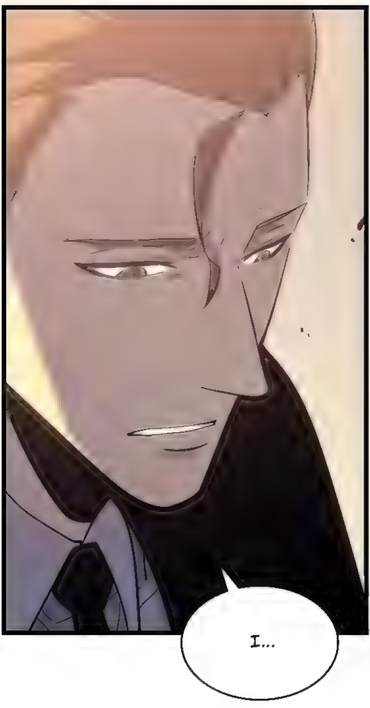
IN OTHER WORDS, WE BELIEVE YOU FIT THE BILL, MR. WOO, AS YOU HAVE BEEN ARRESTING AND MANAGING HUNTERS OVER THE YEARS AS THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM MANAGER.

IN MANY RESPECTS, I AM NOT THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHERS WHO OCCUPY HIGHER POSITIONS THAN ME. AND AREN'T I TOO YOUNG?

THERE'S THE VICE CHAIRMAN...
...AS WELL AS THE DIRECTORS AND ALL THE REGIONAL MANAGERS GATHERED HERE TODAY...
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO BE CHAIRMAN GO GUNHEE'S SUCCESSOR WHEN THERE ARE OTHER BETTER CANDIDATES?
NEITHER I NOR THE OTHER EXECUTIVES HAVE THE POWER TO MOBILIZE THE GREATEST FORCES OF KOREA.
YOU, HOWEVER, DO.

YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE MAJOR GUILDS, AND ABOVE ALL, YOU'RE WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH MR. SUNG JINWOO.
WE'VE RUN INTO EACH OTHER A NUMBER OF TIMES, BUT I'M NOT SURE IF HE THINKS WE'RE CLOSE...
WE CAN'T FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT OUR DECISION IF THAT'S HOW YOU REALLY FEEL, MR. WOO.
BUT... COULD YOU AT LEAST GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION?


I...

B4

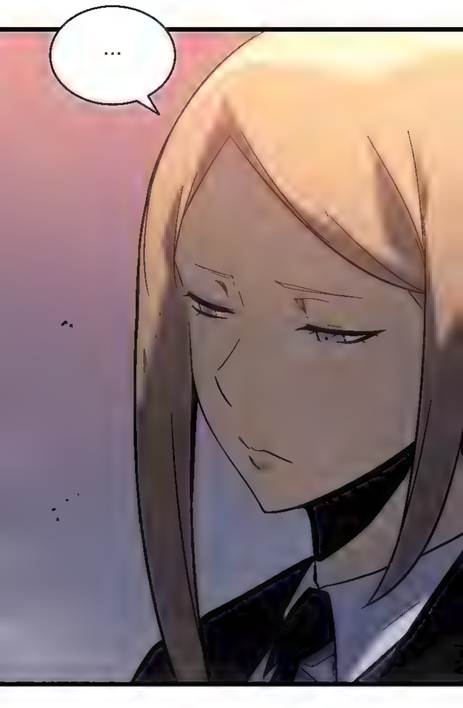
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE COME DOWN TO THE BASEMENT.

GUILD MASTER?!
JOLT
SPRING
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SURPRISED? SIT BACK DOWN.

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GIVE IT AWAY AS A GIFT?
DOES IT SEEM EXCESSIVE? EVEN IF IT'S IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIVES OF ME AND MY GUILD MEMBERS?

BEEP
NO, NOT AT ALL, BUT...

THEN DO YOU THINK HE'S NOT QUALIFIED TO USE IT?
WHIRR


...

RUMBLE

...IT NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS ME.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF THESE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.
AND IT'LL ALWAYS BE THAT WAY.
I'M SURE IT WILL.
AND YET YOU'RE STILL SET ON GIVING IT AWAY?
THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I'M GIVING IT TO HIM.

LEAVING THE WORLD'S BEST WEAPON HERE TO ROT IS SUCH A WASTE, ISN'T IT?

To Be Continued...

Translator: JJoelle

Editor: Michelle Kim

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